

**IN THE
UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

IN RE)
APPLICATION OF:	Omar J. Fakhoury et al.) PRELIMINARY
) AMENDMENT
ATTY. DOCKET NO.:	205017-9004)
)
APPLICATION NO.:	Unassigned)
) ART UNIT: Unassigned
FILING DATE:	Herewith)
)
ENTITLED:	OUTBOARD RIBBED)
	WHEEL HUB)

Mail Stop: Patent Application
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Dear Sir:

- [x] AUTHORIZATION TO PAY AND PETITION FOR THE ACCEPTANCE OF ANY NECESSARY FEES. If any charges or fees must be paid in connection with the following Communication (including but not limited to the payment of issue fees), they may be paid out of our deposit account No: 50-1965. If this payment also requires a Petition, please construe this authorization to pay as the necessary Petition which is required to accompany the payment.

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Prior to calculating the filing fee and examination, please amend this application as follows:

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

--At page 1, line 1-1, before the title "Field of the Invention," please insert the following as the first paragraph of the specification in the above-identified application:

--This application is a continuation of pending application Serial No. 09/703,995, filed November 1, 2000.--

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 1-10, without prejudice.

Please add new claims 11-23, as follows:

11. (New) A wheel hub comprising:
 - a main body having an axial bore, an outboard end and an inboard end;
 - a flange extending radially from said main body, said flange and said main body forming a concave surface that defines a cavity; and
 - at least one rib connecting said main body and said flange;
 - wherein said at least one rib is positioned in said cavity formed by said flange and said main body.
12. (New) The wheel hub of claim 11, wherein said radial flange has an inboard side and an outboard side, and said at least one rib extends between said main body and said outboard side of said radial flange.
13. (New) The wheel hub of claim 11, wherein said radial flange has an inboard side and an outboard side, said outboard side of said radial flange and said main body forming a concave surface that defines a cavity, and said inboard side of said radial flange defining a smooth continuous curve.
14. (New) The wheel hub of claim 11, wherein said at least one rib is tapered in width.
15. (New) The wheel hub of claim 11, further comprising at least one wheel bolt aperture in said radial flange, and said at least one rib is positioned adjacent to said at least one wheel bolt aperture.

16. (New) A wheel hub comprising:
- a main body having an axial bore, an outboard end and an inboard end, and said axial bore having a centerline extending longitudinally through said axial bore;
 - a flange extending radially from said main body, said flange having an outboard side and an inboard side;
 - at least one rib connecting said main body and said outboard side of said flange;
 - wherein said shape and position of said at least one rib directly resists compressive forces directed normal to said centerline of said axial bore.
17. (New) The wheel hub of claim 16, wherein said inboard side of said radial flange defines a smooth continuous curve.
18. (New) The wheel hub of claim 16, wherein said at least one rib is tapered in width.
19. (New) The wheel hub of claim 16, further comprising at least one wheel bolt aperture in said radial flange, and said at least one rib is positioned adjacent to said at least one wheel bolt aperture.
20. (New) A wheel hub comprising:
- a main body having an axial bore, an outboard end and an inboard end;
 - a flange extending radially from said main body, said flange having an outboard side and an inboard side; and